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Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 SEOUL 01495 010312Z

65-60
ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NEA-07 SSO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5726
INFO AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

S E C R E T SEOUL 1495

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR KS SU
SUBJ: SUDANESE AGREE IN PRINCIPLE TO ROK CONGEN IN KHARTOUM

REF: (A) SEOUL 1483 (NOTAL), (B) CAIRO 1836 (NOTAL, (C) SEOUL 1443 (NOTAL), (D) NOUAKCHOTT 396 (NOTAL)

1. ACCORDING TO MOFA DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR MIDEAST AND AFRICAN AFFAIRS KIM HAE SON, SUDANESE MINISTER FOR SPECIAL AFFAIRS BAHAELDIN MOHAMMED IDRIS AND ROK FOREIGN MINISTER PAK TONG CHIN AGREED IN PRINCIPLE DURING TALKS IN SEOUL FEBRUARY 25-27 TO ESTABLISHMENT OF ROK CONSULATE GENERAL IN KHARTOUM. AGREEMENT IS TO BE FORMALLY CONCLUDED AND ANNOUNCED IN KHARTOUM WHILE ROK ECONOMIC MISSION IS THERE. NEGOTIATIONS CONCERNING CONGEN ON ONE HAND AND ECONOMIC RELATIONS ON THE OTHER WERE IN THEORY CONDUCTED SEPARATELY AND ARE NOT, ACCORDING TO KIM, LINKED ON PAPER. NONETHELESS, IDRIS INSISTED THAT AGREEMENT COULD NOT BE FINALIZED OR ANNOUNCED UNTIL ROK ECONOMIC MISSION, WHICH WOULD INCLUDE FOREIGN MINISTRY NEGOTIATORS AS WELL, CAME TO KHARTOUM. ROK INSISTED THAT CONGEN RECEIVE SAME PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES AS DIPLOMATIC MISSION AND IDRIS AGREED, BUT KIM SAID HE WAS NOT CERTAIN THAT IDRIS' FULLY RECOGNIZED COMPLEXITIES INVOLVED ON THIS SCORE SINCE HE IS NOT A SPECIALIST IN THIS AREA.
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PAGE 02 SEOUL 01495 010312Z

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2. FOREIGN MINISTER PAK CONTINUES TO ENTERTAIN SOME RESERVATIONS, ACCORDING TO KIM, ABOUT ECONOMIC PRICE ROK MAY BE ASKED TO PAY BY SUDANESE FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF CONGEN. IF PRICE IS TOO HIGH, ROKG MAY NOT BE ABLE TO CONCLUDE DEAL. PAK IS APPARENTLY CONCERNED ABOUT BURDEN TO ROK ECONOMY AS WELL AS PRECEDENT INVOLVED IN BUYING POLITICAL RECOGNITION WITH BURDENSOME ECONOMIC AID PROGRAMS.

3. IDRIS VISITED ROK WITH SAUDI MILLIONAIRE ADNAN MOHAMED KHASHOGGI, WHO, ACCORDING TO KIM, ACTED AS AN INTERMEDIARY BETWEEN ROK AND SUDANESE GOVERNMENTS. THE PACIFIC CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, A BRANCH OF KIM ("DYNAMITE KIM") CHONG-HUI'S KOREA EXPLOSIVES GROUP, ALSO APPARENTLY IS FACILITATING THE DISCUSSIONS. THE COMPANY'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ACTED AS AN INTERMEDIARY FOR SOME MEMBERS OF THE PARTY IN ORDER TO SECURE VISAS TO THE U.S. IN ADDITION, KIM HAE-SON ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE KCIA HAD BEEN INVOLVED IN BRINGING THE PARTIES TOGETHER, ALTHOUGH HE ATTEMPTED TO MINIMIZE THEIR ROLE.

4. EMBOFF ASKED IF KHASHOGGI HAD BEEN INVOLVED AS AN INTERMEDIARY IN ROK EFFORTS TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH OTHER ARAB COUNTRIES, MENTIONING SPECIFICALLY EGYPT WITH WHICH ROK EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON AND MOFA HAVE OCCASIONALLY EXPRESSED INTEREST IN UPGRADING RELATIONS. KIM DID NOT DENY KHASHOGGI ROLE, BUT INSTEAD RESPONDED THAT EGYPTIAN PROBLEM WOULD BE MORE DIFFICULT SINCE EGYPT FIRMLY COMMITTED TO NORTH KOREAN CAMP AND EGYPTIAN DEMANDS FOR ASSISTANCE LIKELY TO BE SUBSTANTIAL. EMBOFF RESPONDED THAT USG HAD RECENTLY RECEIVED INDICATIONS (REF. B) THAT EGYPTIANS MIGHT BE PREPARED TO MOVE AWAY SOMEWHAT FROM PREVIOUS CLOSE IDENTIFICATION WITH NORTH KOREAN CAUSE.

5. EMBOFF ALSO ASKED HOW ROKG WAS DOING WITH ITS FISHING PROBLEMS WITH MAURITANIA. KIM REPLIED THAT ROKG HAD MADE INFORMAL PROPOSAL FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF SOME SORT OF TRADE RELATIONSHIP, BUT MAURITANIANS HAD NOT REPLIED. KIM ASKED IF USG COULD PROVIDE ANY INDICATION OF MAURITANIAN GOVERNMENT ATTITUDE TOWARD SOUTH KOREA AND PARTICULARLY CONCERNING INFLUENCE OF NORTH KOREANS IN MAURITANIA. HE ALSO ASKED FOR ANY GUIDANCE USG COULD PROVIDE ON THIS ISSUE. EMBOFF RESPONDED HE WOULD LOOK INTO MATTER AND PROVIDE ASSISTANCE IF POSSIBLE. WILL PICK DISCUSSION UP AGAIN
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MARCH 2 ON BASIS STATE 48859 JUST RECEIVED.
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